



HAY THERE: Australia's Olympic equestrian hopeful Julia Hargreaves with hungry horse Bighead.
Picture: Dean Marzolla

Julia jumping around the world to London

**Jim Tucker
 Steve Larkin**

SHOW jumper Julia Hargreaves has been named in Australia's equestrian team for the London Olympics.

Hargreaves was born in Hong Kong, grew up in the US and last May left Australia to base herself in the Netherlands with medal fancy Edwina Tops-Alexander.

Hargreaves, fellow debutant James Paterson-Robinson and Beijing Olympian Matt Williams will join Tops-Alexander in Australia's four-strong show jumping team.

Hargreaves, 26, was the top-performing Australian in the two Olympic nomination events.

"Ever since I was a kid I knew I was going to ride horses for the rest of my life," she said.

"I was incredibly lucky to have a mentor like Edwina, she has been a huge inspiration and has always been incredibly generous with her knowledge."

Tops-Alexander is the world's top-ranked female show jumper.

She is considered the best chance of winning Australia's

first show-jumping medal at an Olympics.

Victorian swimmer Matt Targett snatched the 50m freestyle by .01sec at yesterday's Paris Open meet ahead of a posse of Frenchmen who plan to crash Australia's relay party at the London Olympic Games.

Target's win and his third place the night before in the 100m freestyle were an important tune-up of his racing skills before it gets serious in London, where he is a key cog in the gold medal-chasing 4x100m freestyle relay squad.

His time of 22.14sec and his untapered 100m effort of 49.38 were far less important than the overall aim.

Relay squad mate Eamon Sullivan won the B final of the 50m freestyle (22.84), his single individual event for London, and did not make either final in the 100m freestyle (50.67) while still in heavy training mode.

Brisbane's Yolane Kukla, the baby of the swim squad at 16, gained some valuable international racing experience for her buildup to the 4x100m freestyle relay in London.

Kukla was fourth in the 100m freestyle (55.52).